

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A floating clip frame assembly for retaining at least a pair of connectors, the frame assembly comprising:

a pair of opposing transverse frame portions, each one of the transverse frame portions including a transverse frame inboard contact surface;

a pair of opposing side frame portions disposed proximate opposing ends of the transverse frame portions, each one of the opposing side frame portions including a side frame inboard contact surface;

a column extending inwardly from the transverse frame portions, the column including a pair of opposing column inboard contact surfaces;

an latch assembly for securing the opposing frame portions together;

said transverse frame portions, side frame portions, and column forming at least a pair of through apertures for receiving the connectors, the through apertures defining a longitudinal axis;

a pair of longitudinally opposing undercut portions formed at least partly on at least one of the transverse frame portions, the undercut portions including longitudinally opposing undercut contact surfaces adapted for contacting a lip portion of a connector,

whereby the undercut contact surfaces limit movement of the connector along the longitudinal axis, the transverse frame portion inboard contact surface limits vertical movement of the connector, and the column contact surface and the side frame contact surface limit transverse movement of the connector.

2. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 1 wherein the transverse frame inboard contact surfaces, side frame inboard contact surfaces, and the column inboard contact surfaces define the through apertures.

3. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 1 wherein the assembly for securing includes a latch member and a landing, the latch member extending from a first one of the transverse frame portions, the landing being formed on a second one of the transverse

frame portions, the latch including a protruding lip that engages the landing to secure the first and second transverse frame portions together.

4. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 1 wherein a first one of the transverse frame portions, first portions of the side frame portions, and first portions of the column are formed in a unitary first frame member.
5. (previously presented) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 4 wherein a second one of the transverse frame portions, second portions of the side frame portions, and second portions of the column are formed in a unitary second frame member.
6. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 5 wherein the first frame member and the second frame member have the same shape.
7. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 6 wherein the first frame member and the second frame member are capable of being produced in the same mold.
8. (previously presented) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 6 wherein the latch assembly includes first and second latch members and first and second landings, the first latch member extending from an end of a first transverse frame portion, the first landing being formed on an opposing end of the first transverse frame portion, the second latch member extending from an end of a second transverse frame portion, the second landing being formed on an opposing end of the second transverse frame portion, the first latch engaging the second landing and the second latch engaging the first landing to secure the first and second frame members together.
9. (previously presented) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 6 wherein the column is formed by a first column member and a second column member, the first column member extending from the first frame member, the second column member extending from the second frame member.
10. (original) The floating clip assembly of claim 9 wherein the first column member

extends to the inboard contact surface of the second transverse frame member.

11. (original) The floating clip assembly of claim 10 wherein the second column member extends to the inboard contact surface of the first transverse frame member.

12. (original) The floating clip assembly of claim 5 wherein each one of the first and second side frame portions include mating surfaces, the mating surfaces of the first side frame portions contacting the mating surfaces of the second side frame portions.

13. (cancel)

14. (currently amended) The floating clip frame assembly of ~~claim 13~~ claim 15 wherein the frame members are identical.

15. (currently amended) A [[The]] floating clip frame assembly of ~~claim 13~~ for retaining at least a pair of connectors, the frame assembly including inboard contact surfaces and a pair of opposing front and rear face contact surfaces disposed on exterior and outwardly facing portions of the frame assembly, the front and rear face contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a direction along a connector longitudinal axis, the inboard contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a plane that is perpendicular to the connector longitudinal axis, the frame assembly being formed by a discrete pair of opposing and inter-latching frame members, wherein each one of the frame members include an undercut portion formed thereon, the undercut portions forming the front and rear contact surfaces.

16. (previously presented) A floating clip assembly for retaining at least a pair of connectors, the floating assembly comprising:

a pair of opposing frames, each one of the frames including a frame contact surface;
a pair of opposing sides disposed proximate ends of the frames, each one of the opposing sides including a side contact surface;

a column extending inwardly from the frames, the column including a pair of opposing column contact surfaces;

 a securing means for holding the opposing frames together;

 said frames, sides, and column forming at least a pair of through apertures for receiving the connectors;

 an undercut portion formed at least partly on at least one of the frames, the undercut portion disposed on an exterior and outwardly facing portion of the frame assembly and including an undercut contact surface adapted for contacting a lip portion of the connector, whereby the undercut contact surface limits movement of a connector along a longitudinal axis of the connector, the frame inboard contact surface limits vertical movement of the connector, and the column contact surface and the side contact surface limit transverse movement of the connector.

17. (previously presented) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 16 wherein the securing means includes a latch member and a landing, the latch member extending from a first one of the opposing frame, the landing being formed on a second one of the opposing frame, the latch including a protruding lip that engages the landing to secure the first and second frames together.

18. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 16 wherein a first one of the frames, first portions of the sides, and first portions of the column are formed in a unitary first frame member.

19. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 18 wherein a second one of the frames, second portions sides, and second portions of the column are formed in a unitary second frame member.

20. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 19 wherein the first frame member and the second frame member have the same shape.

21. (original) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 20 wherein the first frame

member and the second frame member are capable of being produced in the same mold.

22. (currently amended) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 1 wherein the undercut ~~portions have is a portion of the transverse member having~~ a smaller longitudinal dimension than that of the side ~~frame portions~~ members.

23. (currently amended) A [[The]] floating clip frame assembly ~~of claim 13 for retaining at least a pair of connectors, the frame assembly including inboard contact surfaces and a pair of opposing front and rear face contact surfaces disposed on exterior and outwardly facing portions of the frame assembly, the front and rear face contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a direction along a connector longitudinal axis, the inboard contact surfaces restricting movement of the connectors in a plane that is perpendicular to the connector longitudinal axis, the frame assembly being formed by a discrete pair of opposing and inter-latching frame members,~~ wherein at least one of the frame members includes a front undercut portion having a longitudinal dimension smaller than that of the ~~inboard contact surfaces side members~~, the front face contact surface being disposed on the front undercut portion.

24. (previously presented) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 23 wherein said at least one frame member includes a rear undercut portion longitudinally opposing the front undercut portion, the rear face contact surface being disposed on the rear undercut portion.

25. (currently amended) The floating clip ~~frame~~ assembly of claim 16 wherein the undercut ~~portions have is a portion of the transverse member having~~ a smaller longitudinal dimension than that of the ~~sides~~ side members.

26. (currently amended) The floating clip frame assembly of ~~claim 13~~ claim 15 wherein each one of the front and rear contact surfaces and inboard contact surfaces are capable of contacting a corresponding connector to achieve the restriction of movement.

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2646/3159
Application No.: 10/044,717
Office Action Dated: March 17, 2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

27. (previously presented) The floating clip frame assembly of claim 26 wherein each one of the front and rear contact surfaces and inboard contact surfaces contact a corresponding connector to achieve the restriction of movement.